

REPARATIVE JUSTICE

DOCUMENTARY CASE FILE

Legal & Political Instruments for Claims Against Former Colonial Powers



From the Abuja Proclamation (1993) to the AU Resolution for the UN General Assembly (March 2026)

Prepared by, Pan-African Progressive Front for: Individuals | African Diaspora Organisations |
Advocacy Groups | Legal Practitioners

Scope: UN Instruments · AU Frameworks · Regional Declarations · National Precedents · State
Acknowledgements

Compiled: March 2026 — Accra, Ghana

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Introduction

The demand for reparative justice has moved from moral advocacy to a structured international political project. Descendants of enslaved Africans and communities affected by colonial domination increasingly seek formal recognition, restitution and institutional reforms from governments that benefited from slavery, colonial exploitation and racial domination.

The development of international norms recognizing the historical injustice of slavery and colonialism has created opportunities for organized advocacy. Instruments such as the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action acknowledge that the transatlantic slave trade and slavery constitute crimes against humanity. This recognition has provided a foundation for political mobilization and diplomatic engagement. In addition, international law recognizes the right of victims of grave violations of human rights to remedies and reparations, as articulated in United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/147.

The objective of the Manual for Submitting Demands for Reparative Justice is to provide a structured process through which organizations and individuals can formulate and submit claims for reparative justice to state authorities in Europe and other countries of the Global West. The document is designed to function as both a political strategy and a procedural guide, with reference to credible sources and case studies on successful reparation demands.

How to Use Cite this Case File

This case file is structured as an operational reference for organisations and individuals pursuing reparative justice claims against governments of former colonial powers. Each instrument entry provides the essential advocacy intelligence needed to cite, invoke, and strategically deploy a given document in formal submissions, parliamentary engagements, diplomatic correspondence, or public campaigns. The file is divided into five operational tiers, reflecting both the legal weight and the advocacy utility of each instrument:

TIER	CATEGORY	USE IN CLAIMS
I	UN & International Law	Primary legal authority, cited in all formal petitions and court submissions
II	African Union Frameworks	Continental mandates establish political standing and pan-African unity
III	Regional Declarations (CARICOM, Pan-African)	Coalition legitimacy demonstrates transnational consensus

IV	State Acknowledgements & Precedents	Proof of principle- cite where specific states have already conceded or paid
V	Emerging 2025–2026 Instruments	Current momentum- demonstrate that this is a live, escalating global campaign

Notice on Strategic Communication, Media and Public Mobilisation

A coordinated communication strategy is a critical component of any campaign seeking reparatory justice. Legal arguments and diplomatic petitions alone rarely generate sufficient political pressure to compel governments to engage with historical accountability. Effective advocacy, therefore requires sustained public visibility through strategic communication, media engagement and digital mobilisation.

Organisations pursuing reparations claims should integrate professional public relations planning into their advocacy framework. This includes preparing press statements, organising media briefings, publishing research summaries in accessible formats and engaging journalists capable of amplifying the issue in national and international debates. Strategic communication ensures that the historical evidence supporting reparations claims reaches broader audiences rather than remaining confined to legal or academic circles.

Social media platforms such as Facebook, X, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube provide powerful tools for transnational mobilisation. Through these platforms, diaspora organisations and community networks can coordinate campaigns across continents and maintain continuous public engagement with the issue of reparatory justice.

Where appropriate, organisations submitting petitions may also notify the **Pan-African Progressive Front** (pp-front.com). Through its allied networks, partner organisations and established media platforms across Africa and the diaspora, the PPF secretariat may help amplify the visibility of reparations petitions and related advocacy initiatives. Such engagement does not involve financial support but rather communication solidarity through coordinated media coverage, digital outreach and political messaging that can extend the reach of reparatory justice campaigns across multiple regions.

Public communication also shapes the narrative surrounding reparations. Advocacy messages should clearly connect the historical crimes of slavery and colonial exploitation to present-day structural inequalities, emphasizing that reparations are grounded in internationally recognised principles of justice and accountability rather than symbolic political demands. When supported by consistent media engagement and digital mobilisation, communication strategies can transform reparations from a marginal policy discussion into a widely recognised global justice issue, increasing pressure on governments of former colonial powers to respond constructively.

TIER I — UNITED NATIONS & INTERNATIONAL LAW

The instruments in this tier constitute the bedrock of any reparations claim. They establish binding or persuasive precedent at the global level and are the instruments most likely to be recognised by government ministries, human rights courts, and UN mechanisms. They should be cited in every formal submission.

DOC-01 : Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA)

STATUS: ADOPTED — World Conference Against Racism, 2001

Full Title	Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
Adopted	8 September 2001, World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance — Durban, South Africa
Issuing Body	United Nations World Conference
Legal Status	UN-adopted political and normative framework; not a binding treaty but carries strong persuasive authority and has been repeatedly reaffirmed by the UN General Assembly
Access	https://www.un.org/en/durbanreview2009/pdf/DDPA_full_text.pdf

Key Provisions for Reparations Claims

- Para 13: Acknowledges that slavery and the slave trade are crimes against humanity and should have always been so
- Para 14: Recognises that Africans and people of African descent, as well as indigenous peoples, were victims and continue to be victims of racism and racial discrimination
- Para 100: Calls on states to adopt measures to prevent and combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
- Para 158: Encourages states to consider means of compensating victims of racial discrimination
- Programme of Action Paras 10–12: Calls for special attention to the situation of Africans and people of African descent; requests states to consider national and international reparation processes

How to Invoke This Document

The DDPA is the single most important multilateral instrument establishing the crime against humanity characterization of the transatlantic slave trade. Cite it in the opening section of any petition to European foreign ministries, the UN Human Rights Council, or regional human rights courts. It is

especially powerful because Western states were present at and generally did not block its adoption. The 2001 Durban Review Conference (2009) and the 20th anniversary reaffirmation (2021) have confirmed its continued relevance.

Key citation phrase: 'The World Conference recognizes that slavery and the slave trade, including the transatlantic slave trade, were appalling tragedies in the history of humanity not only because of their abhorrent barbarousness, but also in terms of their magnitude, organized nature and especially their negation of the essence of the victims, and further acknowledges that slavery and the slave trade are a crime against humanity and should always have been so.' (DDPA, Para. 13)

DOC-02 : UN General Assembly Resolution 60/147

STATUS: ADOPTED — UN General Assembly, 16 December 2005

Full Title	Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law
Resolution No.	A/RES/60/147
Adopted	16 December 2005, 60th Session of the UN General Assembly
Issuing Body	United Nations General Assembly
Legal Status	Adopted by consensus — authoritative statement of the right to reparation under international law
Access	https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/remedyandreparation.aspx

Key Provisions

- Principle 11: Reparation should be proportional to the gravity of the violation and the harm suffered
- Principle 18: Reparation should include full and effective reparation through: Restitution, Compensation, Rehabilitation, Satisfaction, Guarantees of non-repetition
- Principle 19: Compensation should be provided for economically assessable damage including physical or mental harm; lost opportunities including employment, education and social benefits; material damages and loss of earnings; moral damage; and costs required for legal or expert assistance, medicine and medical services
- Principle 22: Satisfaction includes public apology, acknowledgement of facts, and official declarations restoring dignity

How to Invoke This Document

Resolution 60/147 provides the procedural and substantive architecture for structuring reparations demands. Its five-part typology, i.e. *restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction,*

guarantees of non-repetition — should be used as the organisational framework for every reparations petition. Cite this instrument when specifying **WHAT** you are demanding, not merely **WHY**.

DOC-03 : Articles on Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts (ARSIWA)

STATUS: ADOPTED — International Law Commission, 2001 | Noted by UNGA Resolution 56/83

Full Title	Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts
Adopted	2001 by the International Law Commission; noted and annexed by UNGA Resolution 56/83, 12 December 2001
Issuing Body	International Law Commission (ILC)
Legal Status	Widely considered reflective of customary international law; cited by the International Court of Justice and major international tribunals
Access	https://legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/draft_articles/9_6_2001.pdf

Key Provisions

- Article 1: Every internationally wrongful act of a state entails the international responsibility of that state
- Article 2: A state commits an internationally wrongful act when conduct consisting of an action or omission is attributable to the state under international law and constitutes a breach of an international obligation
- Article 31: The responsible state is under an obligation to make full **reparation** for the **injury** caused by the internationally wrongful act
- Article 34: ***Full reparation shall take the form of restitution, compensation and satisfaction, either singly or in combination***
- Article 36: The state responsible shall compensate for the damage caused insofar as such damage is not made good by restitution

How to Invoke This Document

ARSIWA provides the basis for arguing that current states bear legal responsibility for acts committed by their predecessor states and governments. It is essential for countering government arguments that they bear no responsibility for 'historical' acts. Cite Articles 31 and 36 when demanding financial compensation, and Article 34 when structuring multi-form reparations demands including restitution of looted cultural objects.

DOC-04 : UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent

STATUS: ESTABLISHED — UNGA Resolution 75/314, 2 August 2021

Full Title	Permanent Forum on People of African Descent
Resolution No.	A/RES/75/314
Established	2 August 2021 by the UN General Assembly
Mandate	To serve as an advisory body to the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on matters pertaining to people of African descent; to promote the full political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights of people of African descent; and to address the recommendations of the Durban Declaration
Access	https://www.un.org/en/ga/75/resolutions.shtml

How to Invoke This Document

The Permanent Forum is an institutional mechanism through which diaspora organisations can submit formal communications and participate in UN processes. Its establishment represents formal recognition at the highest UN level that people of African descent constitute a distinct constituency with particular grievances arising from the transatlantic slave trade. Petitions to the Forum can be a powerful pressure mechanism — its recommendations, while not binding, carry moral authority and create public diplomatic pressure. The Accra Proclamation (2023) specifically called for this Forum to convene an international conference on reparations involving former colonial powers.

DOC-05 : International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)

STATUS: IN FORCE — Entered into force 4 January 1969

Full Title	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
Adopted	21 December 1965 by the UN General Assembly; entered into force 4 January 1969
Ratification	Ratified by 182 states including all major European colonial powers
Legal Status	Binding international treaty
Access	https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cerd.aspx

Key Provisions

- Article 6: Ensures effective protection and remedies through competent national tribunals and other state institutions against acts of racial discrimination that violate human rights and fundamental freedoms
- Article 14: Individual petition mechanism — allows individuals and groups to submit communications to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

How to Invoke This Document

ICERD is binding on all major European states and provides a legal obligation, not merely a recommendation, to provide effective remedies for racial discrimination. Use this instrument when engaging the CERD Committee through state reporting cycles and when arguing that a state's failure to address the continuing effects of slavery and colonial exploitation constitutes an ongoing violation of ICERD obligations, not merely a historical harm.

TIER II — AFRICAN UNION FRAMEWORKS

The African Union has progressively built a comprehensive institutional architecture for reparations advocacy. These instruments establish the continental political mandate and provide advocacy organisations with the authority of 55 African states behind their claims.

DOC-06 : Abuja Proclamation on Reparations (1993)

STATUS: ADOPTED — First Pan-African Conference on Reparations, Abuja, Nigeria, 1993

Full Title	Declaration of the First Pan-African Conference on Reparations for African Enslavement, Colonization and Neo-Colonization
Adopted	27–29 April 1993, Abuja, Nigeria
Issuing Body	Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and its Reparations Commission
Significance	The first systematic attempt by African states to collectively demand accountability for the transatlantic slave trade and colonialism
Access	https://au.int/en/decisions/abuja-proclamation-reparations

Key Provisions

- Calls for a full acknowledgement of the moral debt owed to African peoples
- Demands debt cancellation, technology transfer, and institutional support for education and healthcare
- Urges former colonial powers to acknowledge their historical culpability
- Establishes reparations as an OAU (now AU) institutional priority
- Calls for negotiations between African states and European governments

How to Invoke This Document

The Abuja Proclamation is the foundational continental instrument and its primary utility is historical: it demonstrates that reparations demands are not a recent trend but a decades-long institutional commitment of the African continent. Cite it in submissions to European governments to demonstrate longevity and institutional seriousness. The gap between 1993 and the present — during which European states have not engaged — itself demonstrates a continuing failure to address the claim.

DOC-07 : AU Accra Proclamation on Reparations (2023)

STATUS: ADOPTED — AU International Conference, Accra, Ghana, 2023

Full Title	Accra Proclamation on Reparations — International Conference on Building a United Front to Advance the Cause of Justice and Reparations to Africans
Adopted	14–17 November 2023, Accra, Ghana; ratified at the AU 36th Ordinary Session
Issuing Body	African Union Commission, with representatives of member states, the African diaspora (Sixth Region) and CARICOM
Significance	Reinvigorated reparations discourse by aligning with contemporary racial justice movements; designated the African diaspora as the Sixth Region of the AU; expanded the scope of reparations to include restitution of looted cultural objects
Access	https://au.int/en/decisions/accra-proclamation-reparations

Key Provisions

- Calls for the establishment of a Legal Reference Group on reparations under the AU Commission
- Calls on the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent to convene an International Conference on reparations involving former colonial powers
- Specifically includes the African diaspora — designated as the Sixth Region — as full participants in the reparations process
- Reaffirms that reparations must include restitution of looted cultural heritage
- Calls for regular international conferences on reparations and for AU member states to establish national reparations commissions

How to Invoke This Document

The Accra Proclamation represents the AU's most detailed and operationally specific mandate for reparations. Crucially, its explicit inclusion of the diaspora as the Sixth Region provides direct legal and political standing for diaspora organisations in Europe and North America to claim representation under the AU framework. Use this to establish that your organisation's claims carry AU institutional backing.

DOC-08 : AU Theme Year 2025: Justice for Africans through Reparations

STATUS: DECLARED — AU Assembly, February 2025

Full Title	African Union Theme of the Year 2025: Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations
Declared	February 2025, 38th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly, Addis Ababa

AU Champion	President John Dramani Mahama of Ghana, designated AU Champion for Advancing the Cause of Justice and the Payment of Reparations
Extended	AU Executive Council extended the reparations focus for a Decade of Reparations (2026–2036) — adopted July 2025
Significance	Transforms reparations from a recurring advocacy theme to a decade-long continental institutional commitment

Key Developments Under This Framework

- Establishment of the AU Coordination Team on Reparations
- Formation of the AU Committee of Experts on Reparations
- Establishment of a Reference Group of Legal Experts to advise on litigation strategy
- Direction to AU member states to establish National Reparations Commissions
- Launch of the Africa Reparations Fund
- Ghana and Togo co-sponsored a High-Level Event on the margins of UNGA 80th Session, September 2025
- 9th Pan-African Congress held in Lomé, December 2025 — adopted programmatic commitments on reparations as developmental tools

How to Invoke This Document

The Year of Reparations and its extension into the Decade of Reparations (2026–2036) demonstrates that reparatory justice is now a decade-long strategic commitment of the African Union — the most authoritative multilateral body for African states. When submitting claims to European governments, cite this framework to demonstrate that demands are not ad hoc but are part of a structured, sustained and institutionally mandated continental program. The existence of the AU Committee of Experts and Legal Reference Group signals to target governments that they are now dealing with an institutionally sophisticated and legally prepared campaign.

Coalition and Movement Instruments

TIER III — REGIONAL DECLARATIONS & PAN - AFRICAN FRAMEWORKS

The instruments in this tier reflect the breadth and transnational character of the reparations movement. They demonstrate to target governments that demands originate not from isolated groups but from coordinated, continental and transatlantic coalitions.

DOC-09 : CARICOM Ten Point Plan for Reparatory Justice (2014)

STATUS: ADOPTED — CARICOM Heads of Government, March 2014

Full Title	CARICOM Ten Point Plan for Reparatory Justice
Adopted	11 March 2014, unanimously by 15 CARICOM member states; CARICOM Reparations Commission established by Heads of Government, 2013
Issuing Body	Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and CARICOM Reparations Commission (CRC)
Legal Counsel	Leigh Day (UK), engaged to prepare Draft Notice of Complaint Regarding Slavery and Indigenous Genocide
Significance	The first government-level, multi-state, formally adopted reparations framework with specific programmatic demands — provides the template for all subsequent national and regional plans
Access	https://caricom.org/caricom-ten-point-plan-for-reparatory-justice/

The Ten Points

- 1. Full Formal Apology — formal government apologies, not merely 'statements of regret'
- 2. Repatriation — legal means for descendants wishing to return to African homelands
- 3. Indigenous Peoples Development Programme — targeted support for native Caribbean communities
- 4. Cultural Institutions — restoration of destroyed historical memory through public institutions
- 5. Public Health Crisis — addressing epidemic chronic diseases (hypertension, Type 2 diabetes) traced to slavery
- 6. Illiteracy Eradication — educational justice for populations denied learning under colonial rule
- 7. African Knowledge Programme — curricula restoring African history and culture
- 8. Psychological Rehabilitation — addressing intergenerational trauma
- 9. Technology Transfer — closing the scientific and industrial gap imposed by colonial extraction

- 10. Debt Cancellation — cancellation of international debt originating from colonial extraction

How to Invoke This Document

The CARICOM plan has extraordinary advocacy utility because it translates abstract demands into specific, measurable, government-endorsed programs. Use it as a model when structuring your own demands — particularly Points 1 (apology), 2 (repatriation), 5 (public health), and 10 (debt cancellation) which have direct equivalents for African diaspora communities in Europe. It also establishes that 15 sovereign Caribbean governments — all former British, French or Dutch colonies — have formally presented these demands to European governments, providing a living precedent for African diaspora organisations.

DOC-10. Accra Declaration on Reparatory Justice (PPF-2025)

STATUS: ADOPTED — Pan-African Progressive Front International Conference, 18–19 November 2025, Accra

Full Title	Accra Declaration on Reparatory Justice
Adopted	19 November 2025, High-Level International Conference Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the 5th Pan-African Congress (Manchester, 1945) — Accra, Ghana
Issuing Body	Pan-African Progressive Front (PPF), with more than 200 delegates from 57 countries across Africa, the Caribbean, the Americas and Europe
Motto	From Historical Memory to Economic and Political Justice
Key Attendees	President John Dramani Mahama (Ghana, keynote); former President John Kofi Agyekum Kufuor; Congolese opposition leader Martin Fayulu; NUMSA General Secretary Irvin Jim; Zambia Socialist Party leader Fred M'membe; US Embassy representative
Significance	Largest transnational civil society reparations conference since Durban 2001; signals escalation from advocacy to institutional claim-making and economic countermeasures
Access	https://pp-front.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Special-Accra-Declaration-on-Reparatory-Justice.pdf

Key Provisions

- Reaffirms the inalienable right of Africans and people of African descent to full reparations for slavery, colonialism, apartheid and systemic exploitation

- Calls for a global framework of reparatory justice based on all five pillars: restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction, and guarantees of non-repetition (directly mirroring UNGA Res. 60/147)
- Mandates the establishment of a Pan-African Reparatory Justice Coordinating Committee
- Calls for preparation of a Roadmap for International Reparations Negotiations
- Proposes a unified Africa Reparations **Fund** and explores imposition of economic countermeasures — including duties on goods from former colonial states
- Calls for the establishment of a legal institution to assess damages, conduct expert valuations and prepare claims for adjudication in international courts
- Calls for formal diplomatic engagement with African Union, ECOWAS, CARICOM and global partners
- Calls for former colonial powers to acknowledge responsibility and enter formal reparations negotiations

How to Invoke This Document

The 2025 Accra Declaration is the most recent and most programmatically detailed civil society instrument. Its adoption by representatives from 57 countries is evidence of mass transnational consensus. Its explicit mention of economic countermeasures import duties on former colonial states signals that civil society is preparing to escalate beyond advocacy if diplomatic engagement is refused. When submitting to European governments, ***cite this Declaration to demonstrate the breadth of the coalition behind the demand and the escalatory consequences of continued non-engagement.***

Proof of Principle: Where States Have Already Conceded

TIER IV — STATE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & PRECEDENTS

The instruments and precedents in this tier are the most powerful tools for countering government claims that reparations are legally or politically unprecedented. Each entry documents a case where a state has acknowledged historical responsibility, issued a formal apology, or provided material reparations — establishing that the principle is viable and that resistance is a political choice, not a legal impossibility.

DOC-11. Germany–Namibia Reconciliation Agreement (2021)

STATUS: AGREEMENT — Signed 28 May 2021, German Government Declaration

Subject	German colonial genocide of the Herero and Nama peoples, 1904–1908
Agreement	Germany formally acknowledged the genocide and agreed to pay €1.1 billion in development aid to Namibia over 30 years
Significance	First formal European government acknowledgement of a colonial genocide accompanied by financial reparations
Limitations	Framed as development aid rather than legal reparations, and victim communities and their descendants were not centrally included in negotiations
Advocacy Use	Cite as evidence that European states can and do acknowledge colonial crimes and provide material reparations when sufficiently pressured — and to argue that the exclusion of direct victim communities from negotiations is itself a reparations failure

DOC-12. Netherlands Formal Apology for Slavery (2022–2023)

STATUS: APOLOGY ISSUED — Prime Minister Mark Rutte, 19 December 2022

Subject	Dutch participation in and profit from the transatlantic slave trade
Apology	Prime Minister Mark Rutte issued a formal state apology on 19 December 2022, specifically using the word 'apology' rather than 'regret'
Follow-up	Netherlands established a €200 million fund for awareness, education and addressing the consequences of slavery; extended to Dutch overseas territories
Significance	First formal government apology from a major European colonial power using unambiguous language — sets a linguistic and political standard

King Willem-Alexander	Added a formal royal apology on 1 July 2023 (Keti Koti day — Emancipation Day)
Advocacy Use	Cite the Dutch apology as both a precedent and a baseline: if the Netherlands can apologise, other European states have no principled ground for refusal. The Netherlands precedent also establishes that an apology should specifically use the word 'apology', not 'regret' or 'acknowledgement'

DOC-13. Belgium Expressions of Regret on Congo (2002 and 2020)

STATUS: PARTIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT — 2002, 2020

Subject	Belgian colonial rule in the Congo, including the atrocities of the Congo Free State under King Leopold II
2002	King Albert II expressed 'deep and sincere regrets' for the killing of Patrice Lumumba, in which Belgium was complicit — no apology for colonial rule generally
2020	King Philippe sent a letter to President Tshisekedi expressing 'deepest regrets' for the 'wounds of the past' during Belgium's rule in Congo, Rwanda and Burundi
Significance	Demonstrates that European monarchies and governments are capable of acknowledging colonial crimes — though Belgian acknowledgements remain partial and fall short of formal apology
Advocacy Use	Cite to demonstrate the trend of European state acknowledgements; also cite to argue that 'regret' is insufficient and that formal apology and reparations are the appropriate standard, as established by the Netherlands precedent

DOC-14. The Haiti Debt of Independence Case (1825 / 2022 Acknowledgement)

STATUS: HISTORICAL PRECEDENT — 1825 | Contemporary Relevance Acknowledged 2022

Subject	France's imposition of a 150 million franc 'independence debt' on Haiti in 1825 as a condition of recognising Haitian independence — effectively forcing Haitians to compensate former slave owners for the loss of their 'property'
Historical Fact	France recognized Haiti's independence only on condition of a payment later calculated to have cost Haiti approximately \$115 billion in lost economic growth

2022 Event	A comprehensive New York Times investigation in May 2022 documented the full scale and economic impact of the Haiti debt
April 2025	CARICOM formally commemorated the bicentenary of the debt imposition (April 1825–April 2025) and intensified demands for France to repay the ransom
Significance	The Haiti case is the clearest example of a European state literally charging formerly enslaved people for the crime of ending their own enslavement — an extreme case that makes the broader reparations argument in concrete terms
Advocacy Use	Use the Haiti case when arguing to French authorities specifically, and to European audiences generally, that the economic underdevelopment of formerly colonised states is a direct, quantifiable result of extraction — not 'cultural' or 'developmental' failure

DOC-15. Church of England Reparations Fund (2023)

STATUS: ANNOUNCED — Church of England, January 2023

Subject	The Church of England's historic investment in and profit from the transatlantic slave trade through its corporate predecessor, Queen Anne's Bounty
Commitment	The Church of England announced a £100 million fund to address the consequences of its historic links to slavery, to be directed to communities affected by the slave trade
Significance	An institutional actor within British civil society, not the British state — has acknowledged liability and provided financial reparations; demonstrates that the principle extends beyond governmental actors to institutions that profited from slavery
Advocacy Use	Cite when pressing British government to follow institutional precedent already set within the UK itself; also useful for extending reparations claims beyond governments to financial institutions and corporations that participated in or profited from slavery

Current Momentum: Live Political Instruments

TIER V — EMERGING INSTRUMENTS: 2025–2026

The instruments in this tier represent the most recent escalation of the global reparations campaign. Citing them in submissions to European governments demonstrates that the campaign is at peak institutional momentum and that engagement is now both more urgent and more inevitable.

DOC-16. Algiers Conference on Colonialism and its Legacies (December 2025)

STATUS: CONVENED — 1 December 2025, Algiers, Algeria

Event	International Conference: Crimes of Colonialism and Their Enduring Legacies
Convened	1 December 2025, Algiers, Algeria
Attendees	African leaders, diplomats and scholars; convened on the margins of the AU Commission's engagement with Algeria on African diplomacy
Key Outcome	Reaffirmed the 2025 AU resolutions formally recognising slavery and colonialism as genocides and crimes against humanity; provided scholarly and diplomatic reinforcement for the legal classification
Significance	The first major post-Accra PPF gathering to specifically engage with colonial crimes as crimes of genocide — escalating the legal characterisation beyond 'crimes against humanity' to the highest level of international criminality
Advocacy Use	Cite when arguing that the legal characterisation of colonialism is not merely contested but is actively being sharpened in the most favourable direction for claimants; demonstrates acceleration of the legal and political campaign

DOC-17. African Union 39th Assembly Resolution on Slavery and Colonialism (February 2026)

STATUS: ADOPTED — AU 39th Ordinary Session of the Assembly, 14–15 February 2026, Addis Ababa

Full Title	Resolution of the 39th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union on the Transatlantic Slave Trade, Slavery, Deportation and Colonialism as Crimes Against Humanity
Adopted	15 February 2026, 39th Assembly of Heads of State and Government, African Union, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Adopted by	Consensus — all 55 African Union member states

Issuing Body	African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government
Presenter	President John Dramani Mahama of Ghana, in his capacity as AU Champion for Advancing the Cause of Justice and the Payment of Reparations
Key Provisions	Recognises the transatlantic slave trade, racialized chattel enslavement and colonialism as crimes against humanity; reaffirms historical justice, truth-telling, remembrance and reparatory justice as AU priorities; mandates Ghana to lead formal diplomatic engagement at the UN General Assembly; endorses the Decade of Reparations 2026–2036
Next Steps	Ghana to engage CARICOM at its 50th Anniversary Summit (February 24, 2026); formal consultations on UN resolution text: February 23 – March 12, 2026; resolution to be tabled at UN General Assembly: March 25, 2026 (International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery)

President Mahama's Statement to the AU Assembly

In delivering his report to the AU Assembly in his capacity as Champion for Reparations, President Mahama stated: 'Reparatory justice will not be handed to us. Like political independence, it must be asserted, pursued, and secured through determination and unity.' He characterised the adoption of the resolution as a moment 'long awaited by all peoples of African descent', stating that 'the legal foundations are sound; the moral imperative is undeniable.'

How to Invoke This Document

This is the most powerful current diplomatic instrument. Its adoption by consensus of all 55 AU member states means that it cannot be dismissed as the demand of isolated groups. When submitting to any European government, attach or reference this resolution to demonstrate that the combined political authority of the African continent now backs the demand. The strategic timing — tabling at the UN on the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery (March 25, 2026) — also creates maximum media and diplomatic pressure.

DOC-18. UN General Assembly Resolution on the Transatlantic Slave Trade (March 2026)

STATUS: ADOPTED — 25 March 2026, UN General Assembly, New York

Subject	UN General Assembly Resolution seeking global recognition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade as the gravest crime against humanity
Tabling Date	25 March 2026 — International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery
Sponsored by	Republic of Ghana; co-sponsored by Togo; backed by all 55 AU member states and expected endorsement by CARICOM (50th Anniversary Summit, February 24, 2026)

Pre-consultations	February 20: Ghana begins engagements in New York with CARICOM and Group of 77; February 23 – March 12: formal consultations on resolution text
Background	Resolution first introduced at UNGA 80th Session, September 2025, where President Mahama signalled Ghana's renewed commitment; AU Assembly unanimously adopted the draft in February 2026
Key Provisions	Constitute a formal UN General Assembly resolution recognising the transatlantic slave trade as the gravest crime against humanity, unprecedented at this level and creating a new platform for reparations demands directed at the states responsible
Access	https://documents.un.org/symbol-explorer?s=A/80/L.48

How to Invoke This Document

This resolution provides binding legal and advocacy leverage. Cite it in petitions submitted to demonstrate that the UN General Assembly has formally acted on this issue. As the most powerful single instrument in Tier I, this adopted UN resolution directly names the transatlantic slave trade as the gravest crime against humanity, carrying the full weight of General Assembly adoption.

DOC-19. Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU) Solidarity Statement on Ghana’s UN Resolution (March 2026)

STATUS: ISSUED — 18 March 2026, Pan African Lawyers Union, Arusha, Tanzania

Subject	PALU solidarity statement expressing continental legal professional endorsement for Ghana’s UNGA draft resolution recognising the transatlantic slave trade and colonialism as crimes against humanity; issued seven days ahead of the 25 March 2026 tabling date
Issuing Body	Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU) — the continental body of African lawyers and bar associations, headquartered in Arusha, Tanzania
Significance	First formal endorsement of the Ghana UNGA resolution by the continental body of the African legal profession; transforms the 25 March 2026 UNGA motion from a political campaign into one with explicit professional legal backing from across Africa; signals preparedness of African courts and practitioners to receive and adjudicate reparations claims
Access	lawyersofafrica.org

How to Invoke This Document

Cite this statement in any formal legal submission or petition to demonstrate that Africa’s organised legal profession has formally endorsed the reparations framework and specifically endorsed Ghana’s 25 March 2026 UNGA motion. It is particularly powerful when engaging government legal advisors and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials in former colonial states, as it signals that the claim carries professional endorsement from legal practitioners across the African continent. Pair with DOC-17

(AU 39th Assembly Resolution) and DOC-18 (Ghana UNGA Resolution) for maximum institutional weight in any Tier V submission. It also directly strengthens the Tier II and Tier III coalition narrative by demonstrating that the legal profession is aligned behind the political and civil society movement.

Master Reference Table

QUICK REFERENCE — ALL INSTRUMENTS AT A GLANCE

The following table provides a consolidated reference of all instruments in this case file for rapid retrieval during advocacy work.

DOC	INSTRUMENT	YEAR	KEY CLAIM SUPPORTED	TARGET
01	Durban Declaration (DDPA)	2001	Slavery = crime against humanity	All European governments
02	UNGA Res. 60/147	2005	Defines reparation typology	All courts & ministries
03	ARSIWA (ILC)	2001	State responsibility for historical wrongs	Legal submissions
04	UN Permanent Forum — PAD	2021	Institutional UN mechanism for claims	UN Human Rights Council
05	ICERD Treaty	1969	Binding obligation to remedy racial harm	All treaty-party states
06	Abuja Proclamation	1993	AU institutional demand since 1993	European governments
07	AU Accra Proclamation	2023	Diaspora standing; cultural restitution	European govts; AU
08	AU Year of Reparations / Decade	2025–36	Decade-long continental mandate	European govts; UNGA
09	CARICOM Ten Point Plan	2014	Government-endorsed specific demands	UK, France, Netherlands
10	PPF Accra Declaration	Nov 2025	57-country civil society mandate	European parliaments
11	Germany–Namibia Agreement	2021	European precedent for colonial reparations	Germany; all EU states
12	Netherlands Slavery Apology	2022–23	Formal apology precedent	Netherlands; UK; France
13	Belgium Congo Acknowledgement	2002/20	Trend of European state acknowledgements	Belgium; EU institutions

14	Haiti Debt Case	1825/2025	Quantifiable historical extraction	France; EU institutions
15	Church of England Fund	2023	Institutional reparations precedent	UK institutions & govt
16	Algiers Conference on Colonialism	Dec 2025	Colonialism as genocide — legal escalation	All European govts
17	AU 39th Assembly Resolution	Feb 2026	55-state consensus — highest AU authority	All states; UN
18	Ghana UNGA Resolution	Mar 2026	UNGA recognition of slave trade as crime	All UN member states
19	PALU Solidarity Statement on UNGA Resolution	Mar 2026	Continental legal professional endorsement of Ghana's UNGA motion	Legal submissions; all former colonial states

Strategic Notes for Advocates

OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE — DEPLOYING THIS CASE FILE

For Petitions to European Foreign Ministries

Open with DOC-01 (Durban Declaration) to establish the crime against humanity characterisation. Follow with DOC-02 (UNGA 60/147) to structure the demands. Close with DOC-17 (AU 39th Assembly Resolution) and DOC-18 (Ghana UNGA Resolution) to demonstrate that this is a live global diplomatic campaign, not an isolated petition. Include relevant state-specific precedents from Tier IV.

For Submissions to Parliamentary Committees

Lead with Tier IV precedents (DOC-11 through DOC-15) — legislators respond to precedent and political feasibility. Use Germany–Namibia and Netherlands apology cases to demonstrate viability. Cite CARICOM Ten Point Plan (DOC-09) as a government-to-government model. Use the ICERD treaty obligation (DOC-05) to argue that engagement is a legal obligation, not a political choice.

For International Human Rights Bodies (UN HRC, Regional Courts)

Build the legal argument sequentially: DOC-03 (ARSIWA) establishes state responsibility; DOC-02 (UNGA 60/147) defines the remedy required; DOC-01 (DDPA) establishes the character of the wrong. Supplement with the AU instruments (DOC-06 through DOC-08) to demonstrate continental political mandate, and with DOC-04 (UN Permanent Forum) as an appropriate referral body.

For Public Campaigns and Media

Centre the Haiti debt case (DOC-14) for maximum public comprehension of what reparations are addressing. Use the Netherlands apology (DOC-12) to make the case achievable in the public imagination. Anchor current momentum with the AU 39th Assembly Resolution (DOC-17) and the March 2026 UNGA tabling date (DOC-18) to create a news cycle and a sense of historical momentum.

For Corporate and Institutional Claims

The Church of England fund precedent (DOC-15) opens the space for claims against financial institutions, insurance companies, port cities and trading companies that historically participated in or profited from the slave trade. Pair with ARSIWA principles (DOC-03) adapted through domestic corporate law frameworks.

This case file is a living document. As new instruments are adopted and new precedents are established, it should be updated to reflect the most current state of the global reparatory justice campaign. The instruments compiled here represent not the end of this legal and political struggle, but its most advanced and accelerating phase.

Compiled for advocacy, academic and operational use by Individuals, African diaspora organisations, civil society movements and legal practitioners by **Pan-African Progressive Front** (pp-front.com)- panafricanprogressivefront@gmail.com

Accra — March 2026